

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5194

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL INFO ADDEES)

PASS COMMERCE FOR NELSON, OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR TOURISM, TS/DESP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, BIE, PFOR, ABUD, FR, XX

SUBJECT: BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS: 76TH
SESSION, DECEMBER 4, 1974

REF: PARIS 15564 OF JUNE 26, 1974

1. SUMMARY: HIGHLIGHTS OF 76TH BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING IN PARIS DECEMBER 4, 1974 WERE APPROVAL OF CY
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1975 BUDGET, DECISION TO INCREASE MEMBER COUNTRIES' DUES

TO 936 FRAHCS PER PART WITH ANOTHER INCREASE EXPECTED AT THE NEXT SESSION IN APRIL 1975, REQUEST BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR BIE REGISTRATION OF SPECIAL CATEGORY HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION IN QUEBEC IN 1976, ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPANISH DELEGATION OF THEIR PROBLEMS IN PROCEEDING WITH BIE REGISTERED BARCELONA UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION IN 1982, PROGRESS REPORT BY JAPANESE DELEGATION ON OKINAWA SPECIAL EXPOSITION, AND FINAL REPORT BY MR. CLAUDE BEKINS, U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR SPOKANE EXPO '74, ON HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SPOKANE SPECIAL EXPOSITION. IN SUM, THIS WAS A GOOD SESSION IN TERMS OF U.S. INTERESTS.

2. AFTER PROLONGED DEBATE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE CY 1975 BUDGET FOR THE BIE WITH A SLIGHT MODIFICATION. THE 26,000 FRANC LINE ITEM FOR PUBLICATION OF THE BULLETIN WAS FROZEN, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE UNFROZEN WHEN ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE, HOPEFULLY AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN APRIL 1975.

3. MEMBER COUNTRIES AGREED TO A DUES INCREASE FROM 780 FRANCS TO 936 FRANCS PER "PART" WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DELEGATES WOULD ASK THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT A FURTHER INCREASE IN DUES ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE BUREAU. A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DUES TO 1000 FRANCS PER PART - THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO BALANCE THE CY 1975 BUDGET - WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE SEVERAL DELEGATIONS WERE ONLY AUTHORIZED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO VOTE AN INCREASE TO 936 FRANCS PER PART, THE FIGURE MENTIONED AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN JUNE 1974. THE UNITED STATES IS ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO 1000 FRANCS PER PART (THE U.S. PAYS 50 "PARTS"). THE ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET COMMITTEE WILL MEET EARLY NEXT YEAR TO REVIEW THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE BUREAU AND WILL RECOMMEND AN ADDITIONAL DUES INCREASE AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN APRIL 1975. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THE 936 FRANCS FIGURE WITH INCREASE AT A MINIMUM TO 1000 FRANCS IN APRIL WITH A FURTHER INCREASE NECESSARY IN CY 1976.

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4. THE SPANISH DELEGATION STATED THAT IT WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNLIKELY THAT SPAIN WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS BIE REGISTERED 1982 DATE FOR THE BARCELONA UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION DUE TO THE CHANGED INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, THE FUEL SHORTAGE, AND SPAIN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES. IF SPAIN SHOULD FORMALLY WITHDRAW ITS 1982 DATE IN THE FUTURE, THIS WOULD OPEN UP NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR UNIVERSAL EXPOSITIONS IN OTHER COUN-

TRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

5. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION REPORTED ON ITS PROPOSAL, NOT YET REGISTERED WITH THE BIE, TO ORGANIZE A UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MODERN AUSTRALIA. THE EXPOSITION WOULD BE BASED AROUND THE DATE OF JANUARY 26, 1988 WHEN THE FIRST BRITISH SETTLERS ARRIVED 200 YEARS AGO. AUSTRALIA IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND REVIEWING PAST UNIVERSAL EXPOSITIONS. THE FORMAL REQUEST TO THE BIE TO REGISTER THIS EXPOSITION IS BEING DELAYED UNTIL

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDES UPON THE MAXIMUM (AND MINIMUM) LEAD TIME FOR REGISTERING AN EXPOSITION DATE.

6. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION PRESENTED A PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES FOR THE OKINAWA SPECIAL EXPOSITION, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 20, 1975 THROUGH JANUARY 18, 1976. TWENTY-FOUR FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE.

7. THE U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR SPOKANE EXPO '74, MR. CLAUDE BEKINS, PRESENTED A COMPREHENSIVE FINAL REPORT ON THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON THE ENVIRONMENT HELD MAY 4-NOVEMBER 3, 1974 IN SPOKANE. EACH DELEGATION WAS PRESENTED WITH A COPY OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE BIE AND A COMMEMORATIVE BOOK ON THE EXPOSITION. SINCE THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TION WAS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION TO BE HELD IN THE U.S. IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE PARIS CONVENTION, SEVERAL PRECEDENTS HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED CONCERNING CUSTOMS, VISAS, ETC.. THE PROFESSIONAL MANNER IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HANDLED THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION HAS DONE MUCH TO COUNTER THE ADVERSE REACTION TO THE UNITED STATES' REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

8. THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION REPORTED ON THE VIENNA HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION HELD IN OCTOBER 1974 WHICH INCLUDED EIGHT FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND ATTRACTED 2,600,000 VISITORS.

9. THE CANADIAN DELEGATION REQUESTED BIE REGISTRATION OF A SPECIAL CATEGORY HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION TO BE HELD IN QUEBEC IN 1976. THIS PROPOSAL WAS OFFICIALLY PRESENTED TO THE BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MEMBER COUNTRIES NOW HAVE FOUR MONTHS TO EXPRESS ANY OBJECTION TO THE ABOVE PROPOSAL; IF NO OBJECTIONS ARE RECEIVED BY THE BUREAU, THE 1976 DATE WILL BE RESERVED FOR CANADA.

10. THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE PRESENTED ITS STUDY PROJECT ON PROCEDURES AND TIME PERIODS TO BE OBSERVED FOR REGISTERING AN EXPOSITION DATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR COMMENTS. (SEE PARIS A-557). THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED THAT PRE-REGISTRATION CONSULTATIONS BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE UNIVERSAL, AS WELL AS SPECIAL, EXPOSITIONS FOR TWO MAJOR REASONS: FIRST, MANY UNIVERSAL EXPOSITIONS ARE REGISTERED AND THEN CANCELLED; PRE-REGISTRATION CONSULTATIONS COULD POSSIBLY AVOID THIS PREDICAMENT. SECOND, ORGANIZERS OF UNIVERSAL EXPOSITIONS ALSO NEED TO HAVE AN APPROXIMATE IDEA OF THE NUMBER OF INTERESTED FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS. THE

U.S. PROPOSAL, ALONG WITH OTHER SUGGESTIONS, WILL BE REFERRED TO A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE. THE FINALIZED DRAFT OF THIS PROJECT WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE 77TH BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

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11. THE REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RULES COMMITTEE WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

12. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BULLETIN AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, MR. J. WILLIAM NELSON, NOTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL

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PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARDS THE PUBLICATION OF AN INTERESTING, COLORFUL BULLETIN, WHICH WILL INCLUDE ARTICLES ON PAST AND FUTURE EXPOSITIONS AND ON IMPORTANT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MOUNTING BIE REGISTERED EVENTS. THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PREPARATION OF ALL ARTICLES SO THAT THE BULLETIN MAY BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. CONCERNING THE BROCHURE, THE CHAIRMAN URGED ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO TO RATIFY THE NEW PROTOCOL TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE AN URGENTLY NEEDED UPDATED BROCHURE.

13. TO DATE, 28 COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED THE PROTOCOL OF 1972 (12 SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION) AND 29 SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROTOCOL TO GO INTO EFFECT.

14. THE NEXT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING - THE 77TH GENERAL
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ASSEMBLY GENERAL - WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 29, 1975.
THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING FOR THE UNITED STATES SINCE BUDGETARY MATTERS AND THE STATUS OF THE BULLETIN WILL BE DISCUSSED.

15. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE U.S. IS GAINING INCREASED RECOGNITION IN THE BIE. IN ADDITION TO HOLDING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BULLETIN AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATION ON PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMITTEE, THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW PROVEN THAT IT CAN SUCCESSFULLY MOUNT AN INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE PARIS CONVENTION. THE WAY IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HANDLED THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION BODES WELL FOR FUTURE PROPOSALS TO HOLD SIMILAR EXPOSITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.
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